REMARKS

Claims 1-59 are pending in this application.

At ¶4, the Examiner suggests removing the title from the abstract page (page 60). The Applicant submits a substitute abstract page herewith.

Claims 1-10, 14-20, 24-38 and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,689 (Todd) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,935,246 (Benson).

The Examiner states that col. 5, lines 66-67 to col. 6, lines 1-14 and 50-56 of Todd discloses, "receiving a resource allocation request from a client." The Applicant disagrees; these lines of Todd do not teach or suggest a resource allocation request. Column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 14 of Todd describe a method of assessing the security vulnerability of target hosts, and do not describe resource allocation in any way. Lines 50-56 of Todd describe establishing a "fact file" on a server, and building a "table of the available service," but do not teach or suggest a request for resource allocation, as required by independent claims 1, 18, 27 and 47. The resource allocation request is described, for example, at page 10, lines 13-24 of the Applicant's specification. None of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a resource allocation request.

The Examiner states that col. 6, lines 40-67 of Todd disclose, "imposing on said client a computational task and a time limit for correct completion of said computational task." The Applicant disagrees, since these lines of Todd do not teach or suggest a computational task. Rather, these lines of Todd teach a seller sending to a user an e-mail containing information relating to the requested vulnerability assessment or series of assessments. The e-mail includes a URL the user can access for assessment results (col. 6, lines 47-49). These lines of Todd further teach a security algorithm performing the vulnerability assessment, and storing the results in a hypertext report file accessible by the user via the URL from the e-mail described above (col. 6, lines 57-62). No computational task is imposed. Further, this particular claim element requires a computational task to be imposed on the *client*, which is the entity in the first limitation of the claim that is the source of the resource allocation request. Col. 6, lines 40-67 of Todd do not

2

Appln. No.: 09/496,824
Amdt. dated August 2 , 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2004

teach or suggest imposing a computational task on an entity that issues a resource allocation request. None of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a computational task imposed on an entity that issues a resource allocation request.

The Examiner states that col. 6, lines 15-26 of Todd disclose, "allocating said resource for said client if the verification is received." These lines of Todd do not teach or suggest any verification of a computational task being performed, which the claim requires for allocating the resource. Col. 6, lines 15-26 teaches a seller computer with hypertext pages that are accessible to a user (col. 6, lines15-19). These lines also teach a user selecting a particular security assessment service via the hypertext page (col. 6, lines 21-26), but do not teach or suggest verification of a computational task being performed, as required by independent claims 1, 18, 27 and 47. None of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest verification of a computational task being performed.

Since Todd does not teach or suggest the elements of claim 1, 18, 27 and 47 as described above, the rejections should be withdrawn. Independent claims 1, 18, 27 and 47 are believed to be allowable, and therefore the associated dependent claims should also be allowable.

For the reasons stated above, we believe that all of the pending claims are allowable and therefore ask the Examiner to pass them on to issue.
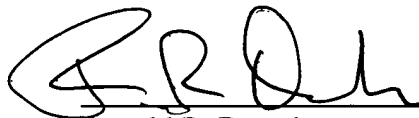
Applicant further submits a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of Time for Response.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 2, 2004

Ronald R. Demsher
Reg. No. 42,478

Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 526-6000
Facsimile: (617) 526-5000

3

BOSTON 1956623v1